

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Economic Notes

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1. Cable Deliveries to the USSR

- a. The Soviet Union is taking delivery on only 20 percent of Czech wire cable production capacity and will receive this year cable valued at 250 million Czech crowns.\* Russian imports consist almost exclusively of long distance, high-tension cables in types ranging from tensions of 1,000 to 6,000 volts. No telephone cable is purchased from Czechoslovakia; source believes the USSR procures this from the United States.
- b. The USSR provides the raw materials which are to go into the wire cable orders which are placed in Czechoslovakia. Only the exact quantities of materials required for the orders are delivered; these deliveries are not part of larger wholesale exchanges. Copper, lead, and rubber are supplied by the USSR. The rubber comes from the synthetic rubber plants in Germany, and it is believed that the metals are also from German stocks, since some of the ingots show signs of having been damaged by bombing. The Russian specifications for the thickness of the lead covering of the cables call for a thinner application than was used even by the Germans during the war.

2. Transfer of Industry to Slovakia

- a. The transfer of industrial installations to Slovakia, which is being promoted under the terms of the Five Year Plan, is being held up by the feeble capacity of the building industry. Work on the following plants is, however, proceeding more or less satisfactorily:
  - 1) Krivan plant between Vrútky and Turčiansky Sv. Martin: this installation should start production within a year and manufacture under the Kolben-Danek program. This plant is to receive another unit, which is to be built on an old airfield near Kosice.
  - 2) Insulating material pressing plant at Orava.
  - 3) Boiler foundry at Brezno nad Hronom.

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- 4) Stamping mill for light electrotechnical equipment at Krompachy.
  - 5) Insulating material plant at Topolčany (will produce iceboxes).
  - 6) Nylon thread plant at Žilina (production has already begun).
  - 7) Tractor plant at Spišská Nová Ves (still in planning stage).
- b. Another informant reports that the following new factories are to be constructed in Slovakia.
- 1) Bratislava: Very large refrigerator plant.
  - 2) Hlavný Kubín: "Electropraga" electrical engineering plant; textile plant.
  - 3) Košice: "Slovena" textile plant branch; "Kovosmalt" enameling plant.
  - 4) Kremnica: "Pilana" metallurgical plant (transferred from Huliný, in the western provinces).
  - 5) Liptovský Sv. Mikuláš: Artificial silk factory.
  - 6) Mokrad: Large brickworks; Slovenske bavlarske zavody textile works.
  - 7) Mytná: Slovenske bavlarské závody textile works.
  - 8) Namestovo: Sawmill with annual capacity of 24,000 cubic meters of lumber.
  - 9) Nizná, Orava district: Textile plant.
  - 10) Nizná, Trstenna district: Textile plant to employ 1,000 workers.
  - 11) Prešov: Brick factory, cement works, timber processing plant, electrical engineering plant, refrigerator plant.
  - 12) Púchov n/Váhom: "29th of August" fire factory.
  - 13) Spišská Nová Ves: Furniture factory.
  - 14) Sučany: Large brickworks.
  - 15) Žilina: "Slovena" textile works, with the most modern equipment.
- c. Slovakia now has a total of 902 industrial enterprises employing more than 20 workers. The Czech provinces (Bohemia and Moravia) have 4,558 such enterprises.

### 3. Miscellaneous Industrial Notes

- a. The shortage of copper in Czechoslovakia is to be eased to some extent by the reopening of old, unprofitable mines. In February 1949 the Podkanova mine, which is in the vicinity of Spania Dolina (C76) was placed into operation; it now employs approximately 100 miners.

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- b. Czech radar apparatus is produced by two firms working in cooperation. The Tesla firm in Pardubice manufactures the electrical parts, while the PÁL works (formerly the Jikov factory) furnish the mechanical precision parts. The latter installation is located some 22 kilometers north of Kaplice (Q93), near the road to České Budejovice.
- c. The "Explosia" factory at Semtin, near Pardubice, which was earmarked for closing down in 1947, was again taking on workers in April 1949.
- d. The underground factories which were built by the Germans during the war in the Křtiny-Jednovice district near Brno are now being renovated. The work is being done by prisoners from labor camps.
- e. The electric furnaces of the Trinec foundries are being converted for the burning of gas because of a shortage of electrodes. The foundries are suffering from a complete lack of copper and are extremely short of manganese silicate. The situation was expected to improve sometime in May by deliveries from Russia.
- f. The ČKD-Českomoravská Kolben Danek works were completely out of ball bearings late in April and actually stocked products without bearings.

25X1A \* ~~SECRET~~ Comment: ~~SECRET~~ does not state over what period the USSR has been taking this fraction of Czech cable production.

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